

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

August 21, 2006

The Board of County Commissioners for Lewis County, Washington met in regular session on Monday, August 21, 2006; at 10:00 a.m. **COMMISSIONERS RICHARD GRAHAM, DENNIS HADALLER and JIM LOWERY** were in attendance. **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM** who determined a quorum and proceeded with the flag salute called the meeting to order. **Commissioner Lowery** moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on Monday, August 14, 2006. **Commissioner Hadaller** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Four people signed up to speak. Chairman Graham stated two of those four were resolution No. 06-262 item #5 and they would be able to speak during the Consent Agenda.

Joyce Vogel, Ashford came to ask the Commissioner if one of them would come to a meeting to be held at the Randle Fire Station to go over the issue of plowing a portion of the road.

Commissioner Hadaller stated he would be there if given the date.

There was then discussion on what date would work and how to go about setting a time up through the Commissioners office.

There was further discussion on the issue of the child that misses school due to the roadway not being plowed. They are trying to figure out other options for their daughter to attend school. They live in Lewis County, but the school she currently attends is part of Pierce County School Districts.

Commissioner Hadaller asked them to get with staff to set up a date.

Dick Brosey, Administrative Prociding Judge for Superior Court, stated that Larry Keeton was working on an Indigent Defense Grant and general overhaul on public defense. The grant is due August 31, 2006. He wanted to know who has and who is working on it. This is the first time we have had the opportunity to do this grant. Would like to go forward with this grant.

Commissioner Lowery stated he had the file and would be willing to meet with Judge Brosey and work on this grant with him.

Judge Brosey would like to get the public defense budget out of the courts and get it in General Administration.

Commissioner Lowery stated they would coordinate schedules to meet on this grant.

NOTICE:

Commissioner Hadaller moved to approve notice agenda item 1. **Commissioner Lowery** seconded the motion. Commissioner Lowery, read the items aloud.

1. Proclamation: Proclaiming September as "Weather Radio Awareness Month".
Motion Carried 3-0

Commissioner Hadaller moved to approve consent agenda items 2, 3, and 4 and act on item 5 separately **Commissioner Lowery** seconded the motion. Karri Muir, Clerk of the Board read the items aloud.

2. **Resolution No. 06-259 Approving amendment #10 Consolidated Contract between Washington Department of Health and Lewis County.**
3. **Resolution No. 06-260 Approval of a memorandum of agreement between Family Forest Foundation and Lewis County.**
4. **Resolution No. 06-261 Bid acceptance for Central Transfer Station Waterline replacement.**

Chairman Graham asked if there were any questions from the Board.

Commissioner Hadaller asked why the leak was on the Central Transfers was let go for two years before it was to be fixed.

Pat Campbell, Solid Waste Manager, stated she took over as manager in May of 2002. The leak was not a devastating leak at the time. They monitored the water bills. There was normal fluctuation from month to month. In May they were required to submit a report to the City of Centralia Waste Water Treatment Plant on our usage. They calculated out the numbers and it was determined the leak needed to be looked at. They put in a couple of valves and took action immediately to fix the leak. They will talk to the City of Centralia to see if they can get back some of the money due to the leaking water was not going into the sewer.

Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Lowery moved to approve item 5. **Chairman Graham** seconded the motion. Karri Muir, read the item aloud.

Chairman Graham asked if there were any questions from the Board.

Commissioner Hadaller stated he seen the final draft of the reorganization for the first time at 8:30 – 8:45. He wanted everyone to know that he had a great amount of confidence in Larry Keeton. That many of the things discussed were done when he was not in the office. He asked for the fiscal impact on this reorganization and as of today has not seen the impacts. He will vote no on this reorganization.

Chairman Graham stated there were two people signed up to speak on the reorganization.

Rose Bowman, Treasurer, Has been with Lewis County for the past 12 years. She has been approached by many employees that have asked her to speak their message. She spoke on her behalf which is similar to hers.

She stated she is saddened today when the BOCC has declared an emergency when one does not exist.

She does not understand why the Commissioners declared an emergency when there was not one. She has seen many organizational charts in the past 12 years and finally the County has one that works with a person at the top that could do the job. Now the county will be going back to previous decades.

She stated they claimed the BOCC's discussion was done in public open meetings, yet she had never seen a board agenda where a meeting was published to discuss the subject of

reorganization, nor ask for input from any of them. It is your right to make the final decision, she stated it was interesting they proceeded with this discussion in total secrecy.

Lewis County Government is big business. Knowledgeable business managers know that you need policy-setting group and you need a management team- a team with an identified leader or CEO – a person to hold accountable those folks that work for the county on behalf of the citizens.

She stated they made the change as an emergency, and didn't have the courtesy to notify the employees or the electeds. Who are very impacted by this decision. You seen one impact today from Judges . Larry did not give us lip service; he went out and helped find solutions and worked with you and try to make things more cost effective for Lewis County. He kept us informed and if you had issues he would help find solutions. I haven't talked with all the electeds but she knows judges, the auditor, the clerk, and sheriff respected and trusted Larry. If you are going to reorg out his position, why not send him back to General Administration, where he succussfully demonstrated his ability to manage people and resources for the good of the citizens and employees of Lewis County. He even demonstated successful management on multiple complex contruction projects. Can you imagine what it would of ben like to finish the jail without his expertise?

She has been out and about during fair week and people are asking why Larry Keeton? He was the only employee that we could go to and be assured we could trust what he said and would find an answer even if we did not like the answer.

She stated Larry was the kind of manager that layed out expectations to his employees yet was fair and honest with them. Larry Keeton came upstairs from General Administration as a favor to the Board. He was willing to do any task he was asked to. He was hired by the county through appropriate public listing and interview process. Not only was he the best qualified candidate, he proved it time and time again. Larry has taken on many difficult issues for the board and worked them through in a manner that demonstrated pure professionalism.

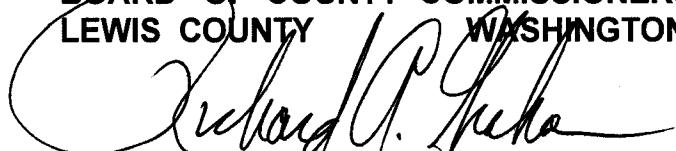
She stated she is saddened that Commissioner Lowery doesn't understand the difference between a mayor council small city governement and county government with mulitiple elected officials and an employee base of more than 600 employees. She hopes he is prepared to deal with the minutia because Commissioner Graham won't and Commissioner Hadaller does not want to.

Kathy Brack, Lewis County Clerk, Has worked for two different counties for the past 34 years. In those 34 years there have only been 3 people that have impressed her and Larry Keeton was one of them. It is Lewis County loss to loose Larry Keeton as an employee. **Chairman Graham** asked if there were any other comments or questions. Motion carried 2-1.

There being no further business, the Commissioners' public meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am. The next public meeting will be held on Monday, August 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

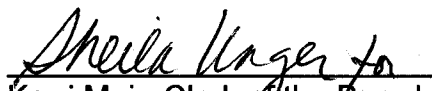
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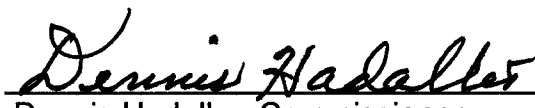
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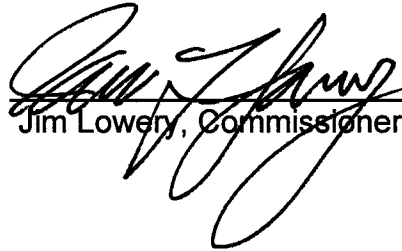


Richard Graham, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:


Karri Muir, Clerk of the Board
Lewis County Commissioners


Dennis Hadaller, Commissioner


Jim Lowery, Commissioner